

The Center for Gender Studies at the University of Chicago

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A Note from the Director



Linda M. G. Zerilli

Charles E. Merriam Distinguished Professor of Political Science and the College, Professor of Gender Studies
Director of the Center for Gender Studies

Those of you who have been reading our newsletter know that the Center is running its 2011-2012 faculty seminar as part of a **Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar Grant** for a project titled “**Women’s International Human Rights: Problems, Paradoxes, Possibilities.**” Like 2010-2011, applications to the seminar were very strong and from a highly interdisciplinary group of scholars. The CGS faculty fellows for 2011-2012 are: **Lauren Berlant** (George M. Pullman Professor of English), **Jennifer Cole** (Associate Professor, Comparative Human Development), **Leela Gandhi** (Professor, English), **Rochona Majumdar** (Assistant Professor, South Asian Languages and Civilizations), and **Tara Zahra** (Assistant Professor, History). Additional seminar members, each of whom receives a research grant to underwrite their contribution to the year’s activities, are: **Alison James** (Assistant Professor, French), **Rachel Jean-Baptiste** (Assistant Professor, History), **Agnes Lugo-Ortiz** (Associate Professor, Latin American Literature), **Emily Lynn Osborn** (Assistant Professor, History), **Tianna Paschel** (Assistant Professor, Political Science), and **Charlotte Walker** (Lecturer, Human Rights).

In the spirit of collaborative research that has come to define the **Women in Science Project (WISP)**, Professors **Suzanne Conzen** and **Martha McClintock** gave a March 7 talk at CGS to a packed house of UChicago women faculty and postdoctoral researchers on social isolation and the biological mechanisms of breast cancer. Upcom-

ing WISP events include a May 12 talk at 4 pm by MIT biology professor **Nancy Hopkins** on “The Changing Status of Women in Science at MIT: 1990-2011” in Kent 120.

This year’s **Classics of Feminist Theory** series, which is focused on Simone de Beauvoir’s *The Second Sex*, brought Northwestern Professor **Penelope Deutscher** to lead an energetic student seminar on the text. Thanks again to the dean of the College for supporting this dynamic event. Activities around Beauvoir continue with **Toril Moi’s** talk on **March 31** at 4:30 in Classics 110. Professor Moi will speak about the relationship of philosophy and literature in Beauvoir’s work with a particular focus on the short story “The Woman Destroyed.”

This year’s **Iris Marion Young Distinguished Faculty Lecture** will be given by **Cathy Cohen**, David and Mary Winton Green Professor of Political Science and the College and Deputy Provost for Graduate Education. Professor Cohen, who is a member of this year’s CGS faculty seminar and whose most recent work is *Democracy Remixed: Black Youth and the Future of Democracy* (Oxford, 2010), will speak on “**Beyond Bullying, Marriage and the Military: Race, Radicalism and Queer Politics**” at 4:30 on **April 14** in Social Sciences 122.

I am happy to announce that renovations of CGS’s quarters on the third floor of 5733 South University Avenue are underway. Changes include the creation of a **new student and faculty lounge**. We have also designed a **reading area and library** on the first floor of the building, where students can meet and use the books that have been donated by our generous affiliated faculty. If you have books that you would like to contribute to the Center, please contact **Sarah Touhey** (stouhey@uchicago.edu) and she will arrange to have them picked up at your office or home. Thanks to the provost and the dean of the College for their generous funding of this improvement in our building. Please stop by to see and use the new space.

Please join me in welcoming **Dr. Dominique Grisard**, a postdoctoral fellow from the Center for Gender Studies at the University of Basel. Funded by the University of

Basel Research Fund and the Swiss National Science Council, Dr. Grisard will use her time in Chicago to advance two new projects: a history of femininity and sexuality through and around the color pink; and a study of sexuality and gender issues that affect the situation of women in European prisons.

Finally, on behalf of the entire CGS community, I want to thank our Assistant Director, **Gina Olson**, who recently completed her tenth year at the Center. Gina has been at the heart of many innovative projects at CGS and has really been crucial to providing both continuity and leadership. In addition to her superb organizing skills, Gina has raised the bar on the quality of refreshments at Center events. Please take a moment to thank Gina for her remarkable contributions to the social and intellectual life of CGS (golson@uchicago.edu).

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THE CENTER FOR GENDER STUDIES
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<http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/>

Collegiate Affairs

The Center for Gender Studies has much to offer students interested in gender and/or sexuality as topics of study and as approaches to understanding a variety of phenomena, from social life to cultural and intellectual production. We offer and cross-list courses from across the university's divisions and schools.

Spring Course Offerings in Gender and Sexuality Studies

GNDR 10200, Problems in the Study of Sexuality, is on offer this quarter, taught by Law School professor Mary Anne Case. Two spring courses taught by CGS Teaching Fellows Marie McDonough and Emily Remus are titled **Morrison, Walker, Lorde** (cross-listed with English and Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies) and **Consuming Women: Gender, Consumption, and Commodification in Historical Perspective**, (cross-listed with History). Eleven other Spring undergraduate courses are cross-listed with offerings from the HCD, the SSCD, the Divinity School, and the Law School, along with several graduate-level courses open to undergraduates with instructor permission. If you're still "shopping" for classes, take a look at our Time Schedules entries at <http://timeschedules.uchicago.edu/view.php?dept=GNDR&term=446>.

Meeting for Majors, Minors, and Other Interested Students, Monday, April 25, 12:30-1:30

If you are a Gender Studies major or minor or are interested in learning more about the program, please come to the Spring Meeting at 12:30 on Monday, April 25, in the seminar room at the Center

(5733 S. University). Join Student Affairs Administrator Sarah Tuohey for lunch and a discussion of the major's and minor's requirements and benefits. All are welcome! Contact Sarah at stuohey@uchicago.edu to RSVP or if you have questions.

Majoring or Minorin in Gender Studies

Program requirements for the Gender Studies major and minor can be found on the CGS web site at <http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/undergrad/>. More information will be covered at the Spring Meeting on April 25, but you should also contact Sarah Tuohey (stuohey@uchicago.edu) to talk about how your interests, goals, and other academic endeavors might be served by the Gender Studies Program and the Center for Gender Studies more broadly.

Ruth Murray Essay Prize

The deadline for the Ruth Murray essay competition is quickly approaching. The Ruth Murray Prize will be awarded for the best essay written by a University of Chicago **undergraduate or graduate student** in the area of women's studies, feminist criticism or gender studies. Essays may come from students in all division and departments and may take the form of analytic or critical essays, empirical research papers, or personal essays. Please have submissions to CGS by Friday, April 1. For details, please visit: http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/undergrad/ruth_murray.shtml

New Spaces for Students at the Center

The Center for Gender Studies is in the process of renovating two spaces at 5733 – the first floor

“middle room” and one of the large third floor offices – into, respectively, a Library/Reading Room and a Student Lounge. We will welcome you to both spaces in Spring Quarter; please check the CGS web site and your emails for updates!

Looking Ahead to Next Year's Classes at the Center

The academic year 2011-12 will be a very exciting one for the Center and will offer a multitude of opportunities for students. Gender Studies will field at least 11 of its own undergraduate courses, including two advanced theory courses, **Queer Theory** and **Gender Theory**, a course on **international women's human rights** in connection with the year-long Sawyer Seminar funded by a large grant awarded to the Center by the Mellon Foundation as a part of its Comparative Study of Cultures program, and **Lines of Transmission: Comics and Autobiography**, to be co-taught in the fall by English Professor Hillary Chute and cartoonist and graphic novelist Alison Bechdel.

Gender Studies course descriptions can be found on our website:

<http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/undergrad/courses.shtml>

Graduate Studies

The Center for Gender Studies now offers a **Graduate Certificate in Gender Studies**. Students wishing to receive the certificate should see the website for details and submit evidence of having fulfilled the requirements for approval to the Sarah Tuohy, Student Affairs Administrator.

The Center for Gender Studies fosters many kinds of graduate participation in the Center. **Teaching opportunities** at the CGS include **co-teaching in the core** of the undergraduate concentration (Problems in Gender Studies I and II and B.A. Preceptorship) as well as **free standing courses** in the College. The core undergraduate courses for the program promote collaborative teaching among faculty and graduate students. We are also pleased to offer a new set of courses for our undergraduates and a **new opportunity for graduate students**. We are calling for applications by advanced graduate students (ABD) to teach one under-graduate course of their own design on the topic of Gender Theory or Queer Theory.

Next year the Center will offer **two Gender Studies Dissertation Fellowships** in conjunction with the Sawyer Seminar. **Two Hormel Fellowships in Sexuality Studies** will also be made available. University of Chicago Ph.D. candidates from all disciplines are encouraged to apply.

All teaching and fellowship applications are due **Friday, April 1, 2011**. Full guidelines can be found on the links from the Graduate Students Page of our Website: <http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/grad>

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop (GSSW) promotes studies of the ways in which gender and sexuality shape human experiences and are embedded in other social practices. It provides participants with an interdisciplinary forum for the development of critical perspectives on gender and sexuality. The workshop meets Tuesday afternoons in even weeks of the quarter to discuss pre-circulated papers written by University of Chicago graduate students, faculty, and visiting scholars. Our winter quarter workshops will feature papers from scholars in **music, anthropology, divinity, sociology, and social work**.

Unless otherwise noted, all workshops are held on the first floor of the Center for Gender Studies, 5733 S. University Avenue, from 4:30 to 6:00 PM. Attendees are expected to read the workshop paper in advance of meeting. **Papers are made available on the CGS website:** <http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/events/workshops.shtml>.

If you are interested in being included on the workshop email list or would like to present your work at a future date, please email the workshop coordinator Erin Moore, emoore@uchicago.edu.

Spring 2011 Workshop Schedule

Tuesday, April 5

Helen Thompson

Department of English, Northwestern University
Secondary Qualities and Masculine Form in Clarissa and Sir Charles Grandison

Tuesday, April 26

Melissa Hardesty

PhD Candidate, School of Social Service Admin
Nuclear Fusion: Family-making in an Agency-based Adoption Program

**Tuesday, May 3—Co-sponsored with
Political Theory**

Michaele Ferguson

Department of Political Science
University of Colorado at Boulder
Taming the Shrew? Choice Feminism and the Fear of Politics

Tuesday, May 10

Morris Kaplan

Department of Philosophy
Purchase College, SUNY
A Queer Orientalism: Sex, Power and Cultural Difference in Backhouse's "Memoirs"

Note Special location: 5710 S Woodlawn

Tuesday, May 17

Shadi Bartsch

Department of Classics
University of Chicago
Socrates and Sexuality in Persius' 4th Satire

**Tuesday, May 31—Co-sponsored with
Comparative Human Development**

Ann Orloff

Departments of Sociology and
Gender Studies, Director of the
Gender Studies Program
Northwestern University

Tuesday, June 7

Larisa Reznik

PhD Candidate, Divinity School
Is transcendence bad for 'women'?

Thursday, March 31, 4:30 pm
Classics 110

Classics in Feminist Theory Series

"To make them other, and face them": Literature, Philosophy and Simone de Beauvoir's "The Woman Destroyed"

Toril Moi, James B. Duke Professor of Literature and Romance Studies at Duke University.

In this lecture, Toril Moi will return to Simone de Beauvoir's short story "The Woman Destroyed" ("La Femme rompue"). In her memoirs, Beauvoir famously complained that both the critics and her women readers had misread the story. By comparing "The Woman Destroyed" to Beauvoir's well received first novel, *She Came to Stay* (*L'Invitée*, 1943), she will bring out the philosophical and feminist interest of this underestimated text. Co-sponsored by The College, The France Chicago Center, The Department of Political Science, The Department of English Language and Literature, and the French Section of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures.

Thursday, April 14, 4:30 pm
Social Sciences 122

The 2011 Iris Marion Young Distinguished Faculty Lecture



Beyond Bullying, Marriage and the Military: Race, Radicalism and Queer Politics

Cathy J. Cohen, David and Mary Winton Green Professor of Political Science, Univ of Chicago.

As an academic activist Dr. Cohen frequently writes and speaks about gender, sexuality, class, ethnicity, and their interrelatedness and connection to power. She is the principal investigator of two major projects: The Black Youth Project and the Mobilization, Change and

Political and Civic Engagement Project and her most recent publication is 2010's *Democracy Remixed: Black Youth and the Future of American Politics*. She is the Deputy Provost for Graduate Education and the former Director of the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture at the University of Chicago.

Tuesday, April 19, 4:30 pm
Classics 110

The Politics of Sexual Freedom Series



Brokered Subjects: Sex, Trafficking, and the Politics of Freedom

Elizabeth Bernstein, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at Barnard College, Columbia University.

Dr. Bernstein is co-editor of *Regulating Sex: the Politics of Intimacy and Identity* (Routledge 2005) and the author of *Temporarily Yours: Intimacy, Authenticity, and the Commerce of Sex* (University of Chicago Press 2007).

Her current research explores the convergence of feminist, neoliberal, and evangelical Christian interests in the shaping of contemporary U.S. policies around the traffic in women. At Barnard and Columbia, she teaches courses on the sociology of gender and sexuality; trafficking, migration, and sexual labor; and contemporary social theory.

Monday, April 25, 12:30-1:30 pm
CGS Seminar Room

Meeting for Majors, Minors, and Other Interested Students

Gender Studies majors, minors and all interested in learning more about the program, please join Student Affairs Administrator Sarah Tuohey for lunch and a discussion of the major's and minor's requirements and benefits. Contact Sarah at stuohey@uchicago.edu to RSVP. All are welcome!

Monday, May 9, 3-5 pm

**Special Collections Research Center, Regenstein Library
Open House and Reception**

Gender Studies faculty and students are invited to the newly renovated spaces of the Special Collections Research Center to learn about primary source materials pertaining to gender and sexuality held in Special Collections and opportunities the new spaces offer for teaching and exhibition.

Tuesday, May 10, 4:30 pm

5710 S Woodlawn, Room 107 (Community Lounge)

The Politics of Sexual Freedom Series

A Queer Orientalism: Sex, Power and Cultural Difference in Backhouse's "Memoirs"



Morris B. Kaplan, Professor of Philosophy at Purchase College, SUNY.

Kaplan's research interests include social and legal regulation of sexual behavior in both philosophical and historical contexts. He is the author of *Sexual Justice: Democratic Citizenship and the Politics of Desire* (Routledge, 1997) and *Sodom on the Thames: Sex, Love, And Scandal in Wilde Times* (Cornell University Press, 2005). "A

Queer Orientalism" traces the intersections among sex, power and cultural difference in the memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse as he attempts to appropriate an indigenous tradition of same-sex love while holding onto a certain erotic privilege as a "foreign devil". More fantasy than history, Backhouse's "memoirs" display vicissitudes of desire and cultural interaction in a distinctively queer and oriental(ist) context. Co-sponsored by the LGBTQ Office of Student Life.

Thursday, May 12, 4 pm
Kent 120

Women in Science Project Event

The Changing Status of Women in Science at MIT: 1990-2011

Nancy Hopkins, Amgen, Inc. Professor of Biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Hopkins is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She also is known for her work promoting equality of opportunity for women scientists in academia, beginning with a committee she chaired at MIT that studied inequalities experienced by women professors. The summary of the committee's findings, published in 1999, is credited with launching a national re-examination of equity for women scientists.